

Message Text

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22

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /102 W
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P 022300Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TOSECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1813

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 4771

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA

SUBJ: ALLEGED SQUEEZE PLAY BY OIL FIRMS AGAINST US AND
CANADIAN ENERGY AGENCIES

1. NOVEMBER 25 GLOBE AND MAIL ARTICLE BY JOHN PICTON DATE-
LINED WASHINGTON, D.C., REPORTS "SQUEEZE PLAY" BY U.S. OIL
REFINERS IN NORTHERN TIER STATES AGAINST CANADIAN AND U.S.
ENERGY AUTHORITIES. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE:

-- USG OFFICIALS ARE ANGRY AT PRESSURE FROM NORTHERN TIER
REFINERS WHO WANT USG TO URGE CANADA TO EXTEND CRUDE OIL
EXPORTS BEYOND 1981 CUTOFF DATE.

-- USG OFFICIALS BELIEVE KITIMAT CONSORTIUM, MADE UP
LARGELY OF SAME GROUP OF CANADIAN-DEPENDENT REFINERS, IS
PURPOSELY DELAYING SUBMISSION OF PROJECT APPLICATION TO
CANADIAN NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD (NEB).

-- KITIMAT CONSORTIUM MEMBERS ARE LOSING ENTHUSIASM FOR PROJECT,
WHICH WOULD END DEPENDENCY ON CANADIAN CRUDE,
BECAUSE OF DOUBTS ABOUT ULTIMATE COST OF ALASKAN CRUDE.

2. COMMENT: EMBOFF ASKED NEB SECRETARY BRIAN WHITTLE
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ON DECEMBER 1 ABOUT ALLEGED DELAYING TACTICS OF OIL

COMPANY DETAILED IN ARTICLE. HE SAID THE CON-
SORTIUM'S LEGAL COUNSEL (ROBERTSON) HAS ASSURED HIM
THAT A PROPOSAL WILL BE SUBMITTED TO NEB ON DECEMBER 8.
WHITTLE SAID HE HAD NO REASON TO DUBT THIS STATEMENT.
EMBASSY HAS ALSO RECEIVED LETTER FROM JOHN R. HALL OF
ASHLAND OIL, A MEMBER OF THE KITIMAT CONSORTIUM,
SAYING THAT CONSORTIUM WILL SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO
THE NEB BEFORE DECMEBER 15.
ENDERS

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